



Sandra Asbury, a retired special education teacher, is an amazing community organizer and advocate. When her son with intellectual disabilities graduated from school he asked, “Mom, where am I going to work tomorrow?” This prompted Asbury and her husband to start “Transitions”, a provider agency in Blanding that contracts with the State to provide day services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Asbury’s vision, commitment, and hard work, has resulted in self-advocacy skill building and work opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Blanding, Monument Valley, Montezuma Creek, and Moab.

Asbury has been innovative in starting her own business (using her collection of antiques as “start-up”), in which she teaches employees customer service, sales and money skills, and helping others start their own businesses. Asbury has assisted others with their dreams of opening a used book store, scrapbooking business and a gourmet foods section in the antique store.

The establishment of the food bank in Blanding was also a result of Asbury supporting someone with the fulfillment of their dream. Asbury learned of a community member who rarely left her home, so she began visiting her on a regular basis. During the visits Asbury learned of her dream to own a food bank. Asbury worked with her and many others in the community to make this dream a reality.

Asbury and people with developmental disabilities have since spread this vital food bank service to sites that provide day services (managed by Asbury) in Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek. Asbury’s efforts have empowered many and have been instrumental in changing perceptions of people with disabilities.